

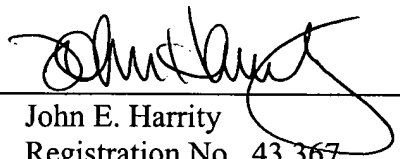
**REMARKS**

Prior to examination of the present application, please amend claim 7 to improve form and add new claims 20-29. No new matter has been added by way of the present preliminary amendment. Claims 5-14 and 20-29 are pending. Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY & SNYDER, L.L.P.

By:   
John E. Harrity  
Registration No. 43,367

Date: April 16, 2004

11240 Waples Mill Road  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
(571) 432-0800